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January 16, 2003

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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Sara Kyle, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

VIA FACSIMILE: (615) 741-8953

Re: PETITION FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF

03-00038

Dear Ms. Kyle:

Momentum Business Solutions, Inc. ("Momentum") wanted to update you on the status of our situation with BellSouth referenced previously. This morning, when BellSouth terminated our LENS access, they demanded \$528,654.67 which they alleged was past due. They refused to accept our disputes despite their compliance with the Interconnection Agreement requirements. Thereafter, BellSouth indicated that the above number was wrong and that Momentum actually owed \$298,664.51 which had to be paid in full in order for our service to be restored.

In response, Momentum filed the Petition for Emergency Relief. Thereafter, BellSouth disconnected Momentum's access to the EDI system and claimed that the actual number Momentum owed (because they refused to accept our disputes) was \$167,830.90. BellSouth disconnected our access without notice, and without justification. They simply refused to acknowledge our good faith disputes. This is particularly ironic in light of the fact that in the course of 6 hours, they claimed three entirely different amounts were owed.

Notwithstanding the anti-competitive nature of disconnecting a competitor, without notice, (when BellSouth themselves could not determine what amount they were claiming was owed,) Momentum has succumbed to BellSouth's duress and paid the amount which was not owed so that we may once again service our customers in Tennessee.

These factics are particularly damaging to a small CLEC like us. Not only were we unable to service customers for an entire day, but we have employees working all day that are unproductive, we must exhaust internal resources trying to remedy the situation,

and employ external resources to facilitate a resolution. On top of that, they require us to pay them for erroneously billed, disputed amounts.

Sincerely,

David M. Benck

Vice President, Legal and Regulatory

Cc: Eddie Roberson-Chief, Consumer Services Division

Richard Collier, General Counsel

Henry Walker

## MOMENTUM

Susiness Solutions incem

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GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

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